IN THE SPECIFICATIONS

Please amend paragraph 20 as follows:

[0020] Fig. 2 illustrates the present optical receiver that includes elements mostly similar to those of Fig. 1, and which are similarly labeled. However, in Fig. 2 the second amplifier stage includes a parallel arranged fixed attenuator 40 which can be coupled to the output terminal of attenuator 22 via switch S1 42. In its upper position, switch S1 couples fixed attenuator 40 into the signal path; in its lower position switch S1 couples in amplifier A2. Attenuator 40 is, e.g., conventionally a "T" of three resistors or an equalizer (R, L, C circuit) providing a constant impedance or a similar circuit providing attenuation. Similarly, switch S2 44 operates in conjunction with switch S1 to couple either attenuator 40 or amplifier A2 in the signal path. Thus at any one time either attenuator 40 or amplifier A2 is connected in the signal path. The second amplifier stage including switches S3, S4 (respectively 48 and 50) operates similarly. As shown, switches S1 and S2 are single pole double [pole] throw switches as are switches S3 and S4 and all the switches are controlled by the control circuit 54 as described further below. The redirected signal path thereby is simply a straight through connection or one with a fixed attenuation to make gain reduction more accurate. For example, if the RF amplifier stages have an actual gain of 14.7 dB while 15 dB is more desirable, a 0.3 dB fixed attenuator 40 is provided in the redirected signal path to achieve the gain reduction of 15 dB. The optical receiver is constructed on, e.g., a printed circuit board using conventional microstrip connections to carry the RF signals.